leakage from a mobile source as a possible source of gas leakage. The released gas was nasal and eye irritant and caused nausea and headache for a short period.

(iv) The District Administration immediately initiated the rescue operations in the affected villages. The affected villagers were taken to Government Hospitals in Bhopal. 180 patients were given primary treatment on the day of leakage and on the next day, 115 were treated. All of them were allowed to go home as none of them were serious enough to be admitted in the hospital.

Damage to forests due to developmental projects

1092. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of various types of forests submerged/damaged due to the construction of developmental projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the proposed Polavaram project submerges reserve forests as well as wild life sanctuary; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Diversion of 36,485.59 ha. of forest land has been allowed by the Central Government for various developmental projects in Andhra Pradesh since promulgation of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed project involves diversion of 3267 ha. of forest land. 2933.84 ha. will go under submergence out of which 187 ha. falls in Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Environment impact assessment guidelines

1093. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) have observed that recently notified new industry-friendly Environment impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines do not meet the expectation of the industry;

(b) if so, whether any consultations have been held with the CII and his Ministry to sort out the points of difference and evolving modalities for convergence for arriving at agreed solutions; and

(c) the changes made or likely to be made after these discussions with CII and other similar bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government is not aware of any such observations by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). However, CII alongwith all other concerned stakeholders were duly consulted before finalization of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification issued on 14th September, 2006.

Diminishing dense forests in Assam

1094. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Forest Survey of India have found 12,833 sq. km. of very dense forests in Assam having been wiped out during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have fixed any responsibility on the authorities who are deployed to look after and preserve the forests wealth of the country; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that numerous saw mills and plywood industries are using illegal felling of the trees as their raw material in spite of the fact that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in December 1996 had banned felling of trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Forest